

TITLE 15**MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING¹****CHAPTER**

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CHAPTER 1**MISCELLANEOUS****SECTION**

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¹Municipal code reference
Excavations and obstructions in streets, etc.: title 16.

15-121. Damaging pavements.

15-122. Bicycle riders, etc.

15-101. Motor vehicle requirements. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle within the corporate limits unless such vehicle is equipped with properly operating muffler, lights, brakes, horn, and such other equipment as is prescribed and required by Tennessee Code Annotated, title 55, chapter 9. (1989 Code, § 9-101)

15-102. Driving on streets closed for repairs, etc. Except for necessary access to property abutting thereon, no motor vehicle shall be driven upon any street that is barricaded or closed for repairs or other lawful purpose. (1989 Code, § 9-106)

15-103. Reckless driving. Irrespective of the posted speed limit, no person, including operators of emergency vehicles, shall drive any vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. (1989 Code, § 9-107)

15-104. One-way streets. On any street for one-way traffic with posted signs indicating the authorized direction of travel at all intersections offering access thereto, no person shall operate any vehicle except in the indicated direction. (1989 Code, § 9-109)

15-105. Unlaned streets. (1) Upon all unlaned streets of sufficient width, a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the street except:

(a) When lawfully overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

(b) When the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair.

(c) Upon a roadway designated and signposted by the city for one-way traffic.

(2) All vehicles proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn. (1989 Code, § 9-110)

15-106. Laned streets. On streets marked with traffic lanes, it shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to fail or refuse to keep his vehicle within the boundaries of the proper lane for his direction of travel except when lawfully passing another vehicle or preparatory to making a lawful turning movement.

On two (2) lane and three (3) lane streets, the proper lane for travel shall be the right hand lane unless otherwise clearly marked. On streets with four (4) or more lanes, either of the right hand lanes shall be available for use except that traffic moving at less than the normal rate of speed shall use the extreme right hand lane. On one-way streets either lane may be lawfully used in the absence of markings to the contrary. (1989 Code, § 9-111)

15-107. Yellow lines. On streets with a yellow line placed to the right of any lane line or center line, such yellow line shall designate a no-passing zone, and no operator shall drive his vehicle or any part thereof across or to the left of such yellow line except when necessary to make a lawful left turn from such street. (1989 Code, § 9-112)

15-108. Miscellaneous traffic-control signs, etc.¹ It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian or the operator of any vehicle to violate or fail to comply with any traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device placed or erected by the state or the city unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian or the operator of any vehicle to willfully violate or fail to comply with the reasonable directions of any police officer. (1989 Code, § 9-113)

15-109. General requirements for traffic-control signs, etc. All traffic control signs, signals, markings, and devices shall conform to the latest revision of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways,² published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway administration and shall, so far as practicable, be uniform as to type and location throughout the city. This section shall not be construed as mandatory but is merely directive. (1989 Code, § 114)

15-110. Unauthorized traffic-control signs, etc. No person shall place, maintain, or display upon or in view of any street, any unauthorized sign, signal, marking, or device which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device or railroad sign or signal, or which attempts to control the movement of traffic or parking of vehicles, or which hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device or any railroad sign or signal. (1989 Code, § 9-115)

¹Municipal code references

Stop signs, yield signs, flashing signals, pedestrian control signs, traffic control signals generally: §§ 15-505--15-509.

²This document may be obtained at: mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov.

15-111. Presumption with respect to traffic-control signs, etc.

When a traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device has been placed, the presumption shall be that it is official and that it has been lawfully placed by the proper authority. All presently installed traffic-control signs, signals, markings and devices are hereby expressly authorized, ratified, approved and made official. (1989 Code, § 9-116)

15-112. School safety patrols.

All motorists and pedestrians shall obey the directions or signals of school safety patrols when such patrols are assigned under the authority of the chief of police and are acting in accordance with instructions; provided, that such persons giving any order, signal, or direction shall at the time be wearing some insignia and/or using authorized flags for giving signals. (1989 Code, § 9-117)

15-113. Driving through funerals or other processions.

Except when otherwise directed by a police officer, no driver of a vehicle shall drive between the vehicles comprising a funeral or other authorized procession while they are in motion and when such vehicles are conspicuously designated. (1989 Code, § 9-118)

15-114. Clinging to vehicles in motion.

It shall be unlawful for any person traveling upon any bicycle, motorcycle, coaster, sled, roller skates, or any other vehicle to cling to, or attach himself or his vehicle to any other moving vehicle upon any street, alley, or other public way or place. (1989 Code, § 9-120)

15-115. Riding on outside of vehicles.

It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, or for the owner or operator of any motor vehicle being operated on a street, alley, or other public way or place, to permit any person to ride on any portion of such vehicle not designed or intended for the use of passengers. This section shall not apply to persons engaged in the necessary discharge of lawful duties nor to persons riding in the load-carrying space of trucks. (1989 Code, § 9-121)

15-116. Backing vehicles.

The driver of a vehicle shall not back the same unless such movement can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with other traffic. (1989 Code, § 9-122)

15-117. Projections from the rear of vehicles.

Whenever the load or any projecting portion of any vehicle shall extend beyond the rear of the bed or body thereof, the operator shall display at the end of such load or projection, in such position as to be clearly visible from the rear of such vehicle, a red flag being not less than twelve (12) inches square. Between one-half (1/2) hour after sunset and one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise, there shall be displayed in place

of the flag a red light plainly visible under normal atmospheric conditions at least two hundred feet (200') from the rear of such vehicle. (1989 Code, § 9-123)

15-118. Causing unnecessary noise. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause unnecessary noise by unnecessarily sounding the horn, "racing" the motor, or causing the "screeching" or "squealing" of the tires on any motor vehicle. (1989 Code, § 9-124)

15-119. Vehicles and operators to be licensed. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in violation of the "Tennessee Motor Vehicle Title and Registration Law" or the "Uniform Motor Vehicle Operators' and Chauffeurs' License Law." (1989 Code, § 9-125)

15-120. Passing. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of a vehicle passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the street until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. The driver of the overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

When the street is wide enough, the driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle which is making or about to make a left turn.

The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction either upon the left or upon the right on a street of sufficient width for four (4) or more lanes of moving traffic when such movement can be made in safety.

No person shall drive off the pavement or upon the shoulder of the street in overtaking or passing on the right.

When any vehicle has stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the street, no operator of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.

No vehicle operator shall attempt to pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless he can see that the way ahead is sufficiently clear and unobstructed to enable him to make the movement in safety. (1989 Code, § 9-126)

15-121. Damaging pavements. No person shall operate or cause to be operated upon any street of the municipality any vehicle, motor propelled or otherwise, which by reason of its weight or the character of its wheels, tires, or track is likely to damage the surface or foundation of the street. (1989 Code, § 9-119)

15-122. Bicycle riders, etc. Every person riding or operating a bicycle, motorcycle, or motor driven cycle shall be subject to the provisions of all traffic ordinances, rules, and regulations of the city applicable to the driver or operator of other vehicles except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application to bicycles, motorcycles, or motor driven cycles.

No person operating or riding a bicycle, motorcycle, or motor driven cycle shall ride other than upon or astride the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, nor shall the operator carry any other person upon such vehicle other than upon a firmly attached and regular seat thereon.

No bicycle, motorcycle, or motor driven cycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

No person operating a bicycle, motorcycle, or motor driven cycle shall carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents the rider from keeping both hands upon the handlebars.

No person under the age of sixteen (16) years shall operate any motorcycle, motorbike, or motor driven cycle while any other person is a passenger upon said motor vehicle.

All motorcycles and motor driven cycles operated on public ways within the corporate limits shall be equipped with crash bars approved by the state's commissioner of safety.

Each driver of a motorcycle or motor driven cycle and any passenger thereon shall be required to wear on his head a crash helmet of a type approved by the state's commissioner of safety.

Every motorcycle or motor driven cycle operated upon any public way within the corporate limits shall be equipped with a windshield of a type approved by the state's commissioner of safety, or, in the alternative, the operator and any passenger on any such motorcycle or motor driven cycle shall be required to wear safety goggles of a type approved by the state's commissioner of safety for the purpose of preventing any flying object from striking the operator or any passenger in the eyes.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or ride on any vehicle in violation of this section and it shall also be unlawful for any parent or guardian knowingly to permit any minor to operate a motorcycle or motor driven cycle in violation of this section.

No person shall operate or ride upon any motorcycle, motorbike, or motor driven cycle unless such person is equipped with and wearing on the head a safety helmet with a secured chin strap and suspension lining, which said helmet shall conform to the type and design manufactured for the use of the operators and riders of such motor vehicles. (1989 Code, § 9-127)

CHAPTER 2

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

SECTION

15-201. Authorized emergency vehicles defined.

15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.

15-203. Following emergency vehicles.

15-204. Running over fire hoses, etc.

15-201. Authorized emergency vehicles defined. Authorized emergency vehicles shall be fire department vehicles, police vehicles, and such ambulances and other emergency vehicles as are designated by the chief of police. (1989 Code, § 9-102)

15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.¹ (1) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, subject to the conditions herein stated.

(2) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this title; proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down to ascertain that the intersection is clear; exceed the maximum speed limit and disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions so long as he does not endanger life or property.

(3) The exemptions herein granted for an authorized emergency vehicle shall apply only when the driver of any such vehicle while in motion sounds an audible signal by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle and when the vehicle is equipped with at least one (1) lighted lamp displaying a red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred feet (500') to the front of such vehicle, except that an authorized emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display a red light visible from in front of the vehicle.

(4) The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others. (1989 Code, § 9-103)

¹Municipal code reference

Operation of other vehicle upon the approach of emergency vehicles:
§ 15-501.

15-203. Following emergency vehicles. No driver of any vehicle shall follow any authorized emergency vehicle apparently travelling in response to an emergency call closer than five hundred feet (500') or drive or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm. (1989 Code, § 9-104)

15-204. Running over fire hoses, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive over any hose lines or other equipment of the fire department except in obedience to the direction of a fireman or policeman. (1989 Code, § 9-105)

CHAPTER 3

SPEED LIMITS

SECTION

15-301. In general.

15-302. At intersections.

15-303. In school zones.

15-304. In congested areas.

15-301. In general. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle upon any highway or street at a rate of speed in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour except where official signs have been posted indicating other speed limits, in which cases the posted speed limit shall apply. (1989 Code, § 9-201)

15-302. At intersections. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any intersection at a rate of speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour unless such person is driving on a street regulated by traffic-control signals or signs which require traffic to stop or yield on the intersecting streets. (1989 Code, § 9-202)

15-303. In school zones. Generally, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-152, special speed limits in school zones shall be enacted based on an engineering investigation; shall not be less than fifteen (15) miles per hour; and shall be in effect only when proper signs are posted with a warning flasher or flashers in operation. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any such special speed limit enacted and in effect in accordance with this paragraph.

When the governing body has not established special speed limits as provided for above, any person who shall drive at a speed exceeding fifteen (15) miles per hour when passing a school during a recess period when a warning flasher or flashers are in operation, or during a period of forty (40) minutes before the opening hour of a school or a period of forty (40) minutes after the closing hour of a school, while children are actually going to or leaving school, shall be prima facie guilty of reckless driving. (1989 Code, § 9-203)

15-304. In congested areas. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any congested area at a rate of speed in excess of any posted speed limit when such speed limit has been posted by authority of the municipality. (1989 Code, § 9-204)

CHAPTER 4

TURNING MOVEMENTS

SECTION

15-401. Generally.

15-402. Right turns.

15-403. Left turns on two-way roadways.

15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways.

15-405. U-turns.

15-401. Generally. No person operating a motor vehicle shall make any turning movement which might affect any pedestrian or the operation of any other vehicle without first ascertaining that such movement can be made in safety and signaling his intention in accordance with the requirements of the state law.¹ (1989 Code, § 9-301)

15-402. Right turns. Both the approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway. (1989 Code, § 9-302)

15-403. Left turns on two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is permitted to move in both directions on each roadway entering the intersection, an approach for a left turn shall be made in that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof and by passing to the right of the intersection of the center line of the two roadways. (1989 Code, § 9-303)

15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is restricted to one direction on one or more of the roadways, the driver of a vehicle intending to turn left at any such intersection shall approach the intersection in the extreme left hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction of travel of such vehicle and after entering the intersection the left turn shall be made so as to leave the intersection, as nearly as practicable, in the left hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in such direction upon the roadway being entered. (1989 Code, § 9-304)

15-405. U-turns. U-turns are prohibited. (1989 Code, § 9-305)

CHAPTER 5

¹State law reference
Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

STOPPING AND YIELDING

SECTION

- 15-501. Upon approach of authorized emergency vehicles.
- 15-502. When emerging from alleys, etc.
- 15-503. To prevent obstructing an intersection.
- 15-504. At railroad crossings.
- 15-505. At "stop" signs.
- 15-506. At "yield" signs.
- 15-507. At traffic-control signals generally.
- 15-508. At flashing traffic-control signals.
- 15-509. At pedestrian control signals.
- 15-510. Stops to be signaled.

15-501. Upon approach of authorized emergency vehicles.¹ Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of audible and/or visual signals meeting the requirements of the laws of this state, the driver of every other vehicle shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection and shall stop and remain in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer. (1989 Code, § 9-401)

15-502. When emerging from alleys, etc. The drivers of all vehicles emerging from alleys, parking lots, driveways, or buildings shall stop such vehicles immediately prior to driving onto any sidewalk or street. They shall not proceed to drive onto the sidewalk or street until they can safely do so without colliding or interfering with approaching pedestrians or vehicles. (1989 Code, § 9-402)

15-503. To prevent obstructing an intersection. No driver shall enter any intersection or marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of such intersection or crosswalk to accommodate the vehicle he is operating without obstructing the passage of traffic in or on the intersecting street or crosswalk. This provision shall be effective notwithstanding any traffic-control signal indication to proceed. (1989 Code, § 9-403)

15-504. At railroad crossings. Any driver of a vehicle approaching a railroad grade crossing shall stop within not less than fifteen feet (15') from the

¹Municipal code reference
Special privileges of emergency vehicles: title 15, chapter 2.

nearest rail of such railroad and shall not proceed further while any of the following conditions exist:

- (1) A clearly visible electrical or mechanical signal device gives warning of the approach of a railroad train.
- (2) A crossing gate is lowered or a human flagman signals the approach of a railroad train.
- (3) A railroad train is approaching within approximately one thousand five hundred feet (1,500') of the highway crossing and is emitting an audible signal indicating its approach.
- (4) An approaching railroad train is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to the crossing. (1989 Code, § 9-404)

15-505. At "stop" signs. The driver of a vehicle facing a "stop" sign shall bring his vehicle to a complete stop immediately before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if there is no crosswalk, then immediately before entering the intersection, and shall remain standing until he can proceed through the intersection in safety. (1989 Code, § 9-405)

15-506. At "yield" signs. The drivers of all vehicles shall yield the right of way to approaching vehicles before proceeding at all places where "yield" signs have been posted. (1989 Code, § 9-406)

15-507. At traffic-control signals generally. Traffic-control signals exhibiting the words "Go," "Caution," or "Stop," or exhibiting different colored lights successively one at a time, or with arrows, shall show the following colors only and shall apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:

- (1) Green alone, or "Go":
 - (a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits such turn. But vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk at the time such signal is exhibited.
 - (b) Pedestrians facing the signal may proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- (2) Steady yellow alone, or "Caution":
 - (a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal is thereby warned that the red or "Stop" signal will be exhibited immediately thereafter, and such vehicular traffic shall not enter or be crossing the intersection when the red or "Stop" signal is exhibited.
 - (b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway unless authorized so to do by a pedestrian "Walk" signal.
- (3) Steady red alone, or "Stop":

(a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until green or "Go" is shown alone. Provided, however, that a right turn on a red signal shall be permitted at all intersections within the city, provided that the prospective turning car comes to a full and complete stop before turning and that the turning car yields the right of way to pedestrians and cross traffic traveling in accordance with their traffic signal. However, said turn will not endanger other traffic lawfully using said intersection. A right turn on red shall be permitted at all intersections except those clearly marked by a "No Turns On Red" sign, which may be erected by the city at intersections which the city decides require no right turns on red in the interest of traffic safety.

(b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway unless authorized so to do by a pedestrian "Walk" signal.

(4) Steady red with green arrow:

(a) Vehicular traffic facing such signal may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow but shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within a crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

(b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway unless authorized so to do by a pedestrian "Walk" signal.

(5) In the event an official traffic-control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section shall be applicable except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop shall be made, but in the absence of any such sign or marking the stop shall be made a vehicle length short of the signal. (1989 Code, § 9-407)

15-508. At flashing traffic-control signals. (1) Whenever an illuminated flashing red or yellow signal is used in a traffic sign or signal placed or erected in the city it shall require obedience by vehicular traffic as follows:

(a) Flashing red (stop signal). When a red lens is illuminated with intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at an intersection or at a limit line when marked, or if none, then before entering the intersection, and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

(b) Flashing yellow (caution signal). When a yellow lens is illuminated with intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles may proceed through the intersection or past such signal only with caution.

(2) This section shall not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of drivers of vehicles approaching railroad grade crossings shall be governed by the rules set forth in § 15-504 of this code. (1989 Code, § 9-408)

15-509. At pedestrian control signals. Wherever special pedestrian control signals exhibiting the words "Walk" or "Wait" or "Don't Walk" have been placed or erected by the city, such signals shall apply as follows:

(1) "Walk." Pedestrians facing such signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right-of-way by the drivers of all vehicles.

(2) "Wait or Don't Walk." No pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of such signal, but any pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the walk signal shall proceed to the nearest sidewalk or safety zone while the wait signal is showing. (1989 Code, § 9-409)

15-510. Stops to be signaled. No person operating a motor vehicle shall stop such vehicle, whether in obedience to a traffic sign or signal or otherwise, without first signaling his intention in accordance with the requirements of the state law,¹ except in an emergency. (1989 Code, § 9-410)

¹State law reference
Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

CHAPTER 6

PARKING

SECTION

- 15-601. Generally.
- 15-602. Angle parking.
- 15-603. Occupancy of more than one space.
- 15-604. Where prohibited.
- 15-605. Loading and unloading zones.
- 15-606. Regulation by parking meters.
- 15-607. Lawful parking in parking meter spaces.
- 15-608. Unlawful parking in parking meter spaces.
- 15-609. Unlawful to occupy more than one parking meter space.
- 15-610. Unlawful to deface or tamper with meters.
- 15-611. Unlawful to deposit slugs in meters.
- 15-612. Presumption with respect to illegal parking.

15-601. Generally. No person shall leave any motor vehicle unattended on any street without first setting the brakes thereon, stopping the motor, removing the ignition key, and turning the front wheels of such vehicle toward the nearest curb or gutter of the street.

Except as hereinafter provided, every vehicle parked upon a street within this city shall be so parked that its right wheels are approximately parallel to and within eighteen inches (18") of the right edge or curb of the street. On one-way streets where the city has not placed signs prohibiting the same, vehicles may be permitted to park on the left side of the street, and in such cases the left wheels shall be required to be within eighteen inches (18") of the left edge or curb of the street.

Notwithstanding anything else in this code to the contrary, no person shall park or leave a vehicle parked on any public street or alley within the fire limits between the hours of 1:00 A.M. and 5:00 A.M. or on any other public street or alley for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours without the prior approval of the chief of police.

Furthermore, no person shall wash, grease, or work on any vehicle, except to make repairs necessitated by an emergency, while such vehicle is parked on a public street. (1989 Code, § 9-501)

15-602. Angle parking. On those streets which have been signed or marked by the city for angle parking, no person shall park or stand a vehicle other than at the angle indicated by such signs or markings. No person shall angle park any vehicle which has a trailer attached thereto or which has a length in excess of twenty-four feet (24'). (1989 Code, § 9-502)

15-603. Occupancy of more than one space. No person shall park a vehicle in any designated parking space so that any part of such vehicle occupies more than one such space or protrudes beyond the official markings on the street or curb designating such space unless the vehicle is too large to be parked within a single designated space. (1989 Code, § 9-503)

15-604. Where prohibited. No person shall park a vehicle in violation of any sign placed or erected by the state or city, nor:

- (1) On a sidewalk.
- (2) In front of a public or private driveway.
- (3) Within an intersection or within fifteen feet (15') thereof.
- (4) Within fifteen feet (15') of a fire hydrant.
- (5) Within a pedestrian crosswalk.
- (6) Within fifty feet (50') of a railroad crossing.
- (7) Within twenty feet (20') of the driveway entrance to any fire station, and on the side of the street opposite the entrance to any fire station within seventy-five feet (75') of the entrance.
- (8) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when other traffic would be obstructed.
- (9) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street.
- (10) Upon any bridge.
- (11) Alongside any curb painted yellow or red by the city. (1989 Code, § 9-504)

15-605. Loading and unloading zones. No person shall park a vehicle for any purpose or period of time other than for the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers or merchandise in any place marked by the city as a loading and unloading zone. (1989 Code, § 9-505)

15-606. Regulation by parking meters. In the absence of an official sign to the contrary which has been installed by the city, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M., on all days except Sundays and holidays declared by the board of mayor and aldermen, parking shall be regulated by parking meters where the same have been installed by the city. The presumption shall be that all installed parking meters were lawfully installed by the city. (1989 Code, § 9-506)

15-607. Lawful parking in parking meter spaces. Any parking space regulated by a parking meter may be lawfully occupied by a vehicle only after a proper coin has been deposited in the parking meter and the said meter has been activated or placed in operation in accordance with the instructions printed thereon. (1989 Code, § 9-507)

15-608. Unlawful parking in parking meter spaces. It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of any vehicle to park or allow his vehicle to be parked in a parking space regulated by a parking meter for more than the maximum period of time which can be purchased at one time. Insertion of additional coin or coins in the meter to purchase additional time is unlawful.

No owner or operator of any vehicle shall park or allow his vehicle to be parked in such a space when the parking meter therefor indicates no parking time allowed, whether such indication is the result of a failure to deposit a coin or to operate the lever or other actuating device on the meter, or the result of the automatic operation of the meter following the expiration of the lawful parking time subsequent to depositing a coin therein at the time the vehicle was parked. (1989 Code, § 9-508)

15-609. Unlawful to occupy more than one parking meter space. It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of any vehicle to park or allow his vehicle to be parked across any line or marking designating a parking meter space or otherwise so that such vehicle is not entirely within the designated parking meter space; provided, however, that vehicles which are too large to park within one space may be permitted to occupy two adjoining spaces provided proper coins are placed in both meters. (1989 Code, § 9-509)

15-610. Unlawful to deface or tamper with meters. It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to open, deface, tamper with, willfully break, destroy, or impair the usefulness of any parking meter. (1989 Code, § 9-510)

15-611. Unlawful to deposit slugs in meters. It shall be unlawful for any person to deposit in a parking meter any slug or other substitute for a coin of the United States. (1989 Code, § 9-511)

15-612. Presumption with respect to illegal parking. When any unoccupied vehicle is found parked in violation of any provision of this chapter, there shall be a prima facie presumption that the registered owner of the vehicle is responsible for such illegal parking. (1989 Code, § 9-512)

CHAPTER 7

ENFORCEMENT

SECTION

- 15-701. Issuance of traffic citations.
- 15-702. Failure to obey citation.
- 15-703. Illegal parking.
- 15-704. Impoundment of vehicles.
- 15-705. Disposal of abandoned motor vehicles.
- 15-706. Violation and penalty.

15-701. Issuance of traffic citations.¹ When a police officer halts a traffic violator other than for the purpose of giving a warning, and does not take such person into custody under arrest, he shall take the name, address, and operator's license number of said person, the license number of the motor vehicle involved, and such other pertinent information as may be necessary, and shall issue to him a written traffic citation containing a notice to answer to the charge against him in the city court at a specified time. The officer, upon receiving the written promise of the alleged violator to answer as specified in the citation, shall release such person from custody. It shall be unlawful for any alleged violator to give false or misleading information as to his name or address. (1989 Code, § 9-601)

15-702. Failure to obey citation. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate his written promise to appear in court after giving said promise to an officer upon the issuance of a traffic citation, regardless of the disposition of the charge for which the citation was originally issued. (1989 Code, § 9-602)

15-703. Illegal parking. Whenever any motor vehicle without a driver is found parked or stopped in violation of any of the restrictions imposed by this code, the officer finding such vehicle shall take its license number and may take any other information displayed on the vehicle which may identify its user, and shall conspicuously affix to such vehicle a citation for the driver and/or owner to answer for the violation within ten (10) days during the hours and at a place specified in the citation. (1989 Code, § 9-603, modified)

15-704. Impoundment of vehicles. Members of the police department are hereby authorized, when reasonably necessary for the security of the vehicle or to prevent obstruction of traffic, to remove from the streets and impound any

¹State law reference
Tennessee Code Annotated, § 7-63-101, et seq.

vehicle whose operator is arrested or any unattended vehicle which is illegally parked, abandoned, or otherwise parked so as to constitute an obstruction or hazard to normal traffic. Any vehicle left parked on any street or alley for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours without permission from the chief of police shall be presumed to have been abandoned if the owner cannot be located after a reasonable investigation. Such an impounded vehicle shall be stored until the owner or other person entitled thereto, claims it, gives satisfactory evidence of ownership or right to possession, and pays all applicable fees and costs, or until otherwise lawfully disposed of. (1989 Code, § 9-604, modified)

15-705. Disposal of abandoned motor vehicles. "Abandoned motor vehicles," as defined in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-16-103, shall be impounded and disposed of by the police department in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-16-103 through 55-16-109. (1989 Code, § 9-605)

15-706. Violation and penalty. Any violation of this chapter shall be a civil offense punishable as follows: (1) Traffic citations. Traffic citations shall be punishable by a civil penalty up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each separate offense.

(2) Parking citations. (a) Parking meter. If the offense is a parking meter violation, the offender may, within ten (10) days, have the charge against him disposed of by paying to the city recorder a fine of one dollar (\$1.00) provided he waives his right to a judicial hearing. If he appears and waives his right to a judicial hearing after ten (10) days but before a warrant for his arrest is issued, his fine shall be three dollars (\$3.00).

(b) Other parking violations. For other parking violations, the offender may, within ten (10) days, have the charge against him disposed of by paying to the city recorder a fine of three dollars (\$3.00) provided he waives his right to a judicial hearing. If he appears and waives his right to a judicial hearing after ten (10) days but before a warrant is issued for his arrest, his civil penalty shall be five dollars (\$5.00). (1989 Code, § 9-603, modified)

CHAPTER 8

ABANDONED AND/OR JUNKED MOTOR VEHICLES

SECTION

- 15-801. Definitions.
- 15-802. Storage of vehicles on public property.
- 15-803. Abandonment of vehicles.
- 15-804. Wrecked or discarded vehicles.
- 15-805. Impoundment.
- 15-806. Notice of impoundment.
- 15-807. Disposition of unclaimed vehicles.
- 15-808. Penalties.

15-801. Definitions. The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter.

(1) "Person" - any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, or organization of any kind.

(2) "Vehicle" - any machine propelled by power other than human power designed to travel along the ground by use of wheels, tread, runners, or slides and transport persons or property or pull machinery and shall include, without limitation, automobile, truck, trailer, motorcycle, tractor, buggy and wagon.

(3) "Property" - any real property within the city which is not a street or highway.

(4) "Abandoned motor vehicle" - a motor vehicle that is over four (4) years old and is left unattended on public property for more than thirty (30) days, or a motor vehicle that has remained illegally on public property for a period of more than forty-eight (48) hours, or a motor vehicle that has remained on private property without the consent of the owner or person in control of the property for more than forty-eight (48) hours. (Ord. #2000-1-1, Feb. 2000)

15-802. Storage of vehicles on public property. No person shall use any street, sidewalk, alley, or other publicly owned property within the city for the purpose of storing vehicles. This chapter shall not be construed as affecting in any way the right of any person to park a vehicle temporarily in any space set aside and designated as a parking space for vehicles.

Any vehicle which is permitted to remain on any street, sidewalk, alley, or other publicly owned property, for a period of forty-eight (48) hours without being moved, shall be presumed to be stored in the meaning of this chapter. (Ord. #2000-1-1, Feb. 2000)

15-803. Abandonment of vehicles. No person shall abandon any vehicle on any property within the city or leave any vehicle any place within the

city for such time and under such circumstances as to cause such vehicle reasonably to appear to have been abandoned. (Ord. #2000-1-1, Feb. 2000)

15-804. Wrecked or discarded vehicles. No person in charge or control of any property within the city, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, or otherwise, shall allow any dismantled, partially dismantled, non-operating, wrecked, junked, or discarded vehicle to remain on such property longer than ten (10) days; and no person shall leave any such vehicle on any property within the city for longer than ten (10) days; except that this chapter shall not apply with regard to a vehicle in an enclosed building, a vehicle on the premises of a business enterprise operated in a lawful place and manner, when necessary to the operation of such business enterprise, or a vehicle in any appropriate storage place or depository maintained in a lawful place and manner by the city. (Ord. #2000-1-1, Feb. 2000)

15-805. Impoundment. The city recorder or his authorized representative is hereby empowered to remove any vehicle found in violation of §§ 15-802, 15-803 or 15-804 of this code to a safe and secure place designated by him for that purpose. (Ord. #2000-1-1, Feb. 2000)

15-806. Notice of impoundment. Whenever the city recorder removes any vehicle, by authority of this chapter, he shall thereupon undertake to determine the owner of such vehicle. Upon ascertaining the name of the owner, he shall give notice to him, by certified mail, return receipt requested, that the vehicle is being held. Any owner, may, thereupon, present to the city recorder sufficient evidence of ownership and upon payment of cost of removal of such vehicle and a reasonable cost not to exceed five dollars (\$5.00) per diem for the storage thereof, the same shall be released to the owner thereof. (Ord. #2000-1-1, Feb. 2000)

15-807. Disposition of unclaimed vehicles. In the event a vehicle removed from public property under this chapter is not claimed during the period of thirty (30) days from date of removal, the city manager shall proceed to sell such vehicle at public auction for cash to the highest bidder and out of the proceeds of the sale, he shall first defray the expenses of the sale, the expenses of removal and storage of the vehicle and the remainder, if any, shall be paid in the general fund in the city. (Ord. #2000-1-1, Feb. 2000)

15-808. Penalties. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punishable under the general penalty clause of this code. (Ord. #2000-1-1, Feb. 2000)